WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A contents management apparatus in a computer for managing the number of times contents are transferred between the computer and a recording and
5   reproduction device, the contents management apparatus comprising:

management screen display means for displaying on a display section of the computer a library management screen of contents and a device management screen for
10   managing contents of a device; and

contents management means for displaying the contents-transferable number of times, which is predetermined for each content, on the library management screen, and for displaying a number obtained
15   by subtracting a predetermined number from the contents-transferable number of times every check-out when contents are transferred from the library management screen to the device management screen, and displaying a number obtained by adding a predetermined
20   number to the contents-transferable number of times every check-in when the contents transferred to the device management screen are returned to the library management screen.

2. The contents management apparatus according to
25   claim 1, wherein the contents management means includes a check-out list for managing a device whose contents are checked out.

3. The contents management apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the contents management means adds a contents-transferred device to the check-out list every check-out of each content, and deletes a contents-transferring device from the check-out list every check-in of each content.

4. The contents management apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the check-out list includes a flag indicating whether a check-out is allowed for each content, and the apparatus further comprises inhibit means for inhibiting a check-out of contents when the flag indicates that the check-out is not allowed.

5. A contents management apparatus in a computer for managing the number of times contents are transferred between the computer and a plurality of recording and reproduction devices, the contents management apparatus comprising:

management screen display means for displaying on a display section of the computer a library management screen for managing transfer of contents between the computer and each of the devices; and

contents screen selection means for selecting a tag corresponding to each of the devices on the library management screen and displaying a device management screen for managing the device of the selected tag to the forefront.

6. The contents management apparatus according to

claim 5, further comprising contents management means for displaying the contents-transferable number of times, which is predetermined for each content, on the library management screen, and for displaying a number obtained by subtracting a predetermined number from the contents-transferable number of times every check-out when contents are transferred from the library management screen to the device management screen, and displaying a number obtained by adding a predetermined number to the contents-transferable number of times every check-in when the contents transferred to the device management screen are returned to the library management screen.

7.   The contents management apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the contents management means includes a check-out list for managing a device whose contents are checked out.

8.   The contents management apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the contents management means adds a contents-transferred device to the check-out list every check-out of each content, and deletes a contents-transferring device from the check-out list every check-in of each content.

9.   The contents management apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the check-out list includes a flag indicating whether a check-out is allowed for each content, and the apparatus further comprises inhibit

means for inhibiting a check-out of contents when the flag indicates that the check-out is not allowed.

10. A contents management apparatus in a computer for managing the number of times contents are

5 transferred between the computer and a recording and reproduction device, the contents management apparatus comprising display means for displaying on a display section of the computer a library management screen of contents and a device management screen for managing

10 contents of a device,

wherein the library management screen serves to display the number of times contents are transferable.

11. A contents management method in a computer for managing the number of times contents are transferred

15 between the computer and a recording and reproduction device, the contents management method comprising the steps of:

displaying on a display section of the computer a library management screen of contents and a device

20 management screen for managing contents of a device, and displaying the contents-transferable number of times, which is predetermined for each content, on the library management screen; and

displaying a number obtained by subtracting

25 a predetermined number from the contents-transferable number of times every check-out when contents are transferred from the library management screen to the

device management screen, and displaying a number

obtained by adding a predetermined number to the

contents-transferable number of times every check-in

when the contents transferred to the device management

5   screen are returned to the library management screen.